# ONE PROBER—A MISTRIAL

## Other Defendants Still Face Court

BISMARCK, N.D., March 28 (UPI)—A Federal judge today refused to declare a mistrial for four defendants in a $3 million insurance fraud case, because of the uproar over a fifth defendant's claim that he knows who killed President Kennedy.

The fifth defendant, David Kroman, was granted a mistrial and ordered to a hospital for a mental examination Monday.

**U.S. District Court Judge Edward Devitt took the action after Kroman, a 43-year-old attorney, claimed his car was forced off a road near Bismarck at gunpoint early yesterday.**

Kroman said he was threatened because he had conducted his own investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy and was carrying documents which "tend to prove and in some cases do prove that (Lee Harvey) Oswald did not assassinate President Kennedy and that other persons did."

**MISTRIAL ASKED**

Today, a mistrial was asked for the other four men standing trial on charges of milking the American Allied Insurance Co. of St. Paul, Minn., of $3 million.

**In ordering Kroman sent to the Federal penal hospital at Springfield, Mo., for a mental examination, Devitt said:**

"There is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense," Devitt said.

Kroman mounted the witness stand in his own defense Monday and related how, while en route from Minneapolis in a rented car, two other cars followed him. As he neared Bismarck, Kroman said, one car drew abreast of his and the occupant pointed a pistol.

**"I would either be shot or I would go off the road. I went off the road," Kroman said.**

State police found Kroman partially conscious, a loaded shotgun across his knees, at 4 a.m. Police said Kroman alternately opened and closed his eyes, indicating the defendant was not fully conscious.

**SEIZURE TOLD**

Kroman was taken to a local hospital where a doctor said he had suffered an apparent epileptic seizure.

**In a bedside news conference Kroman said a North Dakota highway patrolman "thankfully salvaged" documents he had amassed in more than three years of investigating, prompted when he heard "a drunken Cuban babbling" in a Miami bar. He said his probe took him to Dallas, Key West, Las Vegas and New Orleans.**

Kroman told Devitt he had been attacked as recently as March 18, that papers were taken from him in a Tennessee motel in January, 1964, and that on other occasions assailants tried to wrest papers from him.

**NOT TRIAL**

Kroman also told Devitt he was convinced the Monday highway incident was connected with his assassination investigation and not with his involvement in the insurance fraud trial. He said he would "name names" later in regard to his investigation.

**The attorney said he has been in touch with James Garrison, New Orleans district attorney who says he has "solved" the Kennedy assassination. "Jim Garrison has most of it correct but not the whole story," Kroman said.**

Asked why his alleged assailants had not killed him, Kroman indicated he believed they had achieved their end. "If I am completely ruined as far as my name is concerned, and if I am torn across physically, then I wouldn't be of any use anymore."

Kroman, unsuccessful candidate for Minnesota's Democratic - Farmer - Labor party attorney general nomination on a ticket with former Insurance Commissioner Cyrus Magnusson who was running for the gubernatorial nomination last year, was indicted on fraud and conspiracy charges in the collapse of the American Allied Insurance Co. Magnusson and officials of the insurance company also were indicted and are on trial.

This man seems to have completely "disappeared" !!!

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